

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: K. TAKAYAMA et al.

U.S.S.N.: Not Yet Assigned Art Unit: Not Yet assigned

FILED: Herewith Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

FOR: MAGNETIC RECORDING DEVICE, RECORDING DEVICE, AND
REPRODUCING DEVICE

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office Addressee," Mailing Label No. **EV342589113US**, addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on **November 24, 2003**.

By: Michelle P. Chicos
Michelle P. Chicos

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Date: November 24, 2003

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, applicant(s) hereby submit(s) an Information Disclosure Statement for consideration by the Examiner.

I. LIST OF PATENTS, PUBLICATIONS OR OTHER INFORMATION

The patents, publications or other information submitted for consideration by the Office are listed on PTO-1449, attached hereto.

II. COPIES

- a. Submitted herewith is a legible copy of (i) each U.S and foreign patent; (ii) each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and (iii) all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed.

III. CONCISE EXPLANATION OF THE RELEVANCE
(check at least one box)

- a. Except as may be indicated below in (b), all of the patents, publications or other information are in the English language or were cited in an English language Search Report, a copy of which is attached hereto (concise explanation not required).
- b. A concise explanation of the relevance of all patents, publications or other information listed that is not in the English language is as follows:

English language abstract and partial translation for references BA-BC.
- c. The following additional information is provided for the Examiner's consideration:

IV. THIS IDS IS BEING FILED UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)
(check one box)

- a. within three months of the filing date of a national application (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b) (1)). No fee or certification is required.
- b. within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in §1.491 in an international application (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b) (2)). No fee or certification is required.
- c. before the mailing date of a first Action on the merits (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b) (3)). No fee or certification is required. In the event that a first Office Action on the merits has been issued, please consider this IDS under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) and see the certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)below, or, if no certification has been made, charge our deposit account a fee in the amount of \$240.00 as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

V. THIS IDS IS BEING FILED UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c):
(check one box)

before the mailing date of a Final Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113 (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) (1)) or before the mailing date of a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311 (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) (2)).

- a. No certification; therefore, a fee in the amount of \$180.00 is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

or

- b. See the certification below. No fee is required.

VI. THIS IDS IS BEING FILED UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d):
(check both boxes if applicable)

before payment of the Issue Fee (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d)).

- a. See the certification below; and
- b. A fee in the amount of \$180.00 is enclosed as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

VII. CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) (check only one box)

The undersigned hereby certifies that

- a. each item of information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS; or
- b. no item of information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the best of my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.
- c. Some of the items of information were cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office. As to this information, the undersigned certifies that each item of information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS. As to the remaining information, the undersigned hereby certifies that no item of this remaining information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the best of my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

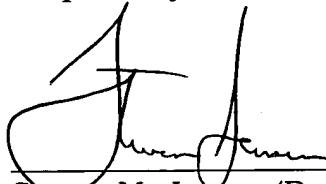
Please charge Deposit Account No. 04-1105 in the amount of _____ for the above-indicated fee. A triplicate copy of this paper is attached.



No fee is required.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this IDS, he/she is requested to contact the undersigned. If it is determined that this IDS has been filed under the wrong rule, the PTO is requested to consider this IDS under the proper rule (with a petition, if necessary) and charge the appropriate fee to Deposit Account No. 04-1105.

Respectfully submitted,



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FORM PTO-1449 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT		ATTY DOCKET NO. 60280 (70904)	SERIAL NO. Not Yet Assigned
		APPLICANT(S): K. TAKAYAMA et al.	
		FILING DATE: Herewith	ART UNIT: Not Yet Assigned

UNITED STATES PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAM. INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS	FILE DATE IF APPR
	AA	2002/0186506 A1	12/2002	Sato et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	PUBLISHED DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB CLASS	TRAN YES/NO
	BA	2001-134994	05/2001	Japan			English language Abstract & partial translation
	BB	2000-207723	07/2000	Japan			English language Abstract & partial translation
	BC	04-176034	06/1992	Japan			English language Abstract & partial translation

OTHER DOCUMENTS (INCLUDING AUTHOR, TITLE, DATE, PERTINENT PAGES, ETC.)

Examiner:	Date:	